

Item No. 6	Classification: Open	Date: April 2 2009	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Children Looked After: Performance Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the committee note this report, and endorse the measures adopted to address performance in relation to long-term stability.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Services for Children Looked After (CLA) are monitored through a series of national and local performance indicators. Southwark's latest performance against these indicators, together with other relevant activity data, can be seen in the scorecard in **appendix 1**.
3. This information is monitored on a monthly basis at senior management meetings. Summary information is monitored by the Young Southwark Executive.
4. Data in appendix 1 shows the comparative position of Southwark's Statistical Neighbours (SN) which under the new system are;
 - Hackney
 - Lambeth
 - Haringey
 - Islington
 - Lewisham
 - Hammersmith and Fulham
 - Greenwich, Waltham Forest
 - Camden
 - Newham

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Overall the performance for Children Looked After for Southwark as at the end of February 09 is strong and improving.

Particular Success

6. There was a total of 44 adoptions in the whole of 2007/08 (Indicator 39); a 10.1% rate of all CLA for more than one year, which was above the statistical neighbour average of 9.5%. This year has shown to be considerable improvement and we currently have 45 adoptions (including SGO) year to date (from April 08 to January 2009); a current rate of 8.1% of CLA adopted from Looked After Care [Indicator 4].
7. The percentage of CLA adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision has shown steady improvement (Fig 6 in page 6) since its drop in August 08 of 88.2% from 90.9% ending Q1, and is now currently at 92.6% [Indicator 18].
8. The percentage of care leavers aged 16 or over with 5 or more GCSEs at grade A* to C has typically shown improvement over the years and is currently at 17.3% at the end of February 2009, exceeding its 2007/08 Target and SN average of 13% and 12.2% respectively [Indicator 44]

9. The number of CLA per 10,000 population aged under 18 has remained steady within 549 and 554 since Q2 08/09 and currently we have 552 Children Looked After (Indicator 8); a 101.2 rate well within our Target of 101 [Indicator 8 & 14].
10. There is improvement in the percentage of CLA aged 10 to 15 being placed for adoption or in foster placement from 08/09 Q2 drop to 82.5% (from 07/08 outturn of 85.7%) to currently at 86.6% ending Feb 09 [Indicator 17].

Areas of Concern

11. Due to the great increase in the number of care leavers reaching 19 (from April 1st to Date) compared with the slower-moving trend of CLA in EET, there was a drop from 67.5% in 07/08 outturn to 48.1%. Target is 68%. However, we know that there is a major national down turn in employment. Please see figure 10 (page 8). Indicator 29
12. Again, with the linear increase in the number of Care Leavers who reached their 19th birthday from April 09 to date not matching that of the number in Education, Employment or Training (EET), NI 148 has worsened since November 2008 at 69.0 to 51.9% in January 2009 and is currently worse than target of 68%. Please see figure 10 (page 8). Indicator 28

Ones to watch

13. The percentage of CLA with 3 or more placements has shown steady increase throughout the year and is currently steady at 12.3%; marginally over the Target of 12%.
14. The percentage of CLA placed within a 7 mile radius of their home address has been steady at 64% since November 2008, worse than its 2007/08 Target of 70%.
15. The percentage of CLA under 16 yrs old looked after for 2-1/2+ years and living in the same placement for 2+ improved in performance from 08/09 Q1 of 63.7% to 68.6% in Q2. However, its performance has dropped to 66.5% ending Feb 09. Indicator 40.
16. The percentage of Children Looked After being fostered by a Relative or Friend has remained between 6.2% and 6.9% over the financial year and thus a concern to improve to 07/08 Target of 8% or 07/08 outturn of 7.3%.

SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 2009 INDICATOR SET (APPENDIX 1)

Accommodation of CLA (figure 1 over the page)

17. The number of CLA in Residential Care (Indicator 1) has dropped to 81 from 90 in 08/09 Q2 reducing the percentage (Indicator 15) to 14.7% from 16.4%.
18. The number of CLA in Foster Care (Indicator 2) was 431 ending 2007/08 and has shown a steady drop to 422 in 08/09 Q1 to 384 in 08/09 Q2 and is currently back up at 390 ending Feb 09. A current rate (Indicator 23) at 70.7%.
19. There are currently 49 CLA in lodging, residential employment or living independently (Indicator 6) an increase from 07/08 outturn of 32 CLA.
20. There are 13 CLA Living with Parents (Indicator 5) ending Feb 09; a drop from 19 in 08/09 Q2 but higher than 07/08 outturn of 9.
21. There has been a steady drop in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) since 06/07 outturn of 86 and is currently at 41 children.

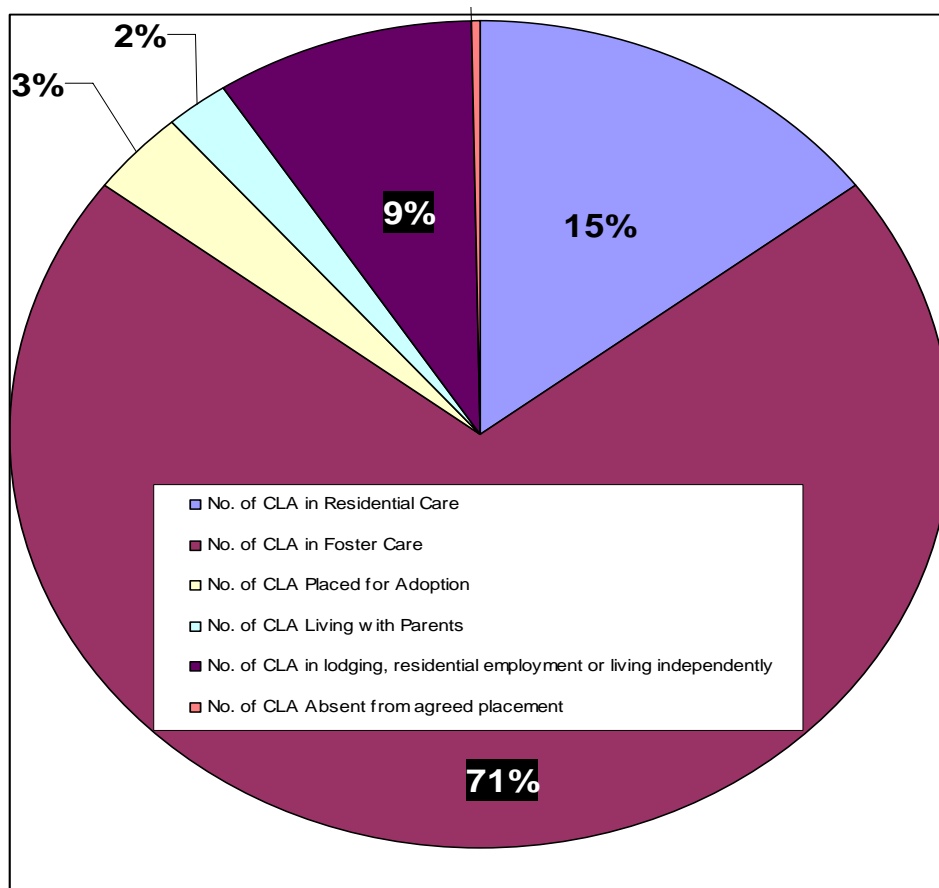


Fig 1:Accommodation Breakdown of CLA in Southwark

Legal Status

22. There has been an increase in the number of Interim Care Order, pending Court case, from 67 in 2007/08 to 80 ending Feb 2009.
23. There has been a drop in the number of Section 20 Agreements from 232 in 05/06 to 188 in 2007/08 and currently 174 ending February 2009
24. The number of Full Care Orders have dropped from 317 in 2005/06 to 304 in 2007/08 and is currently at 255 ending Feb 2009.
25. Other Legal Statuses, such as the Emergency Protection Order have increased massively from 10 in 2005/06 to 15 in 2007/08 and is currently at 43 ending February 2009.

CYPP Outcomes 1: Being Healthy

- **Health of CLA (medical & dental) – 1037SC**

26. The health of Children Looked After has improved greatly from 03/04 at 80.6% to 89.1% in 07/08 and is currently at 91.3%; exceeding its 08/09 Target & 07/08 SN of 88% & 89% respectively

CYPP Outcome 2: Staying Safe

Placement Choice

- **No. of CLA per 10,000 population aged under 18 (Indicator 14) – 2042SC:**

27. This Indicator has remained steady within 549 and 554 since Q2 08/09 and currently we have 552 Children Looked After (Indicator 8); a 101.2 per 10,000 under 18 population rate well within our Target of 101. Although this PI has shown great improvement from previous years

down from 660 in 2003/04 outturn, however the rate still stands high compared to its SN of 88

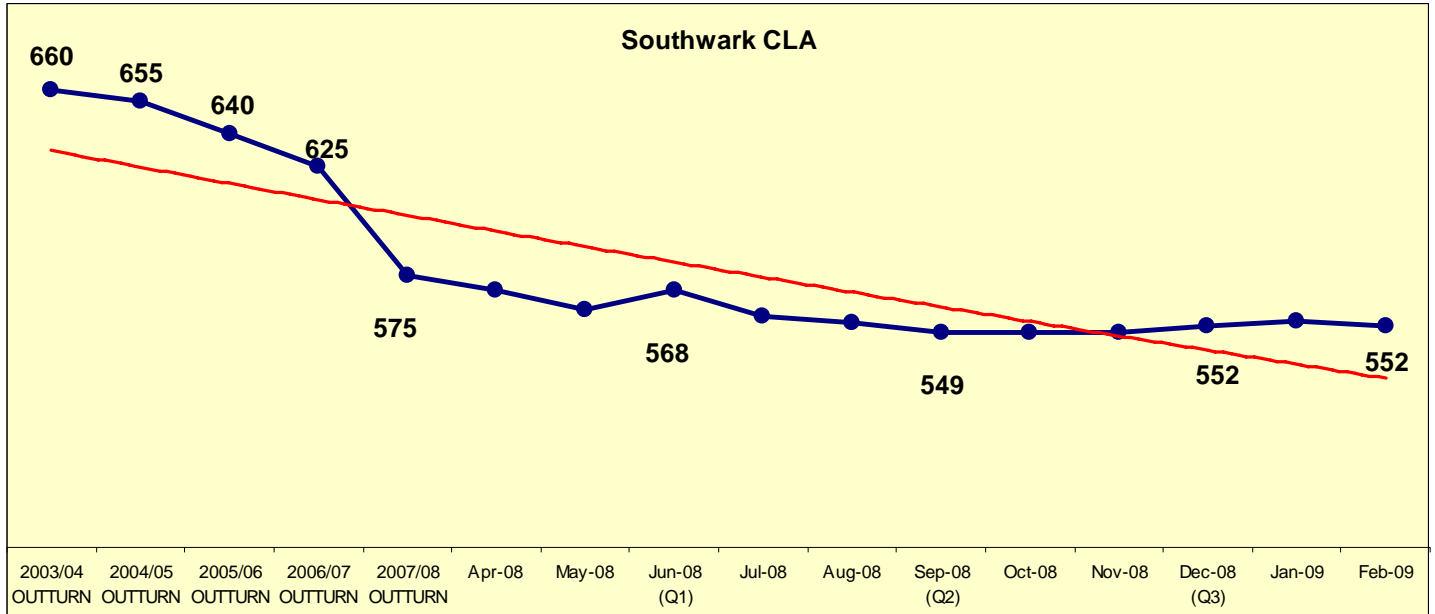


Fig 2: Southwark Performance over the years

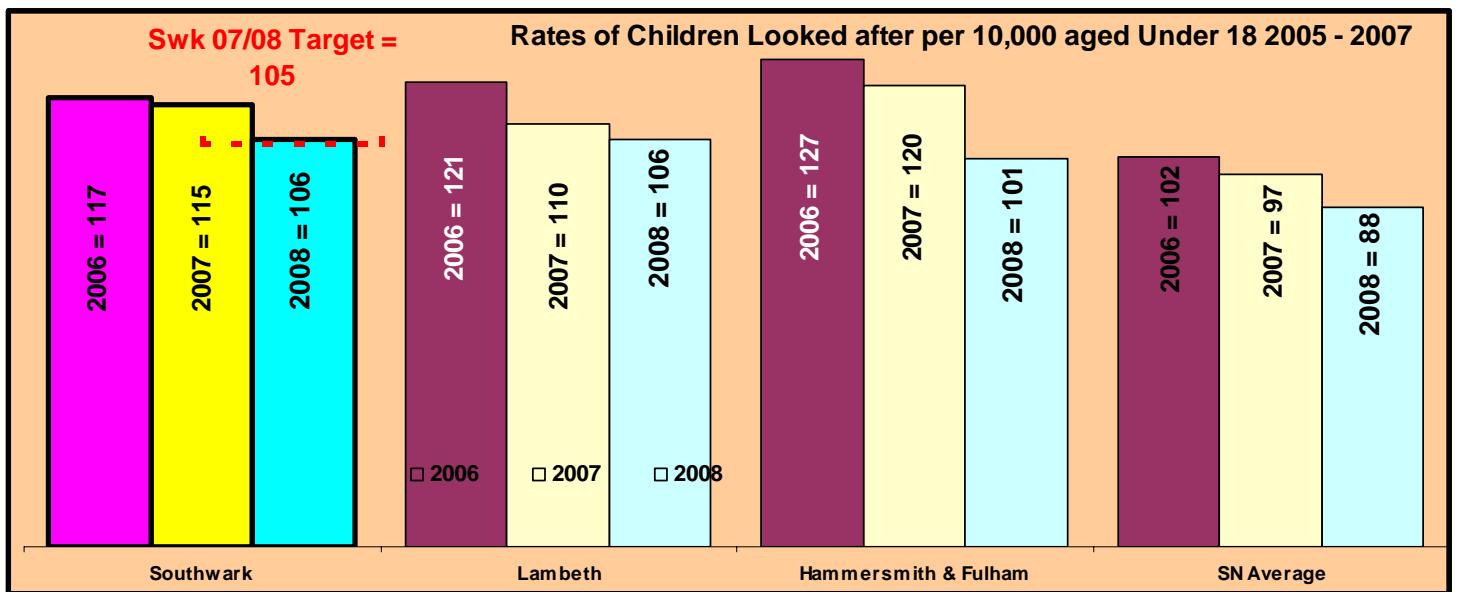


Fig 3: Comparing CLA with some of Southwark's SN (2007/08)

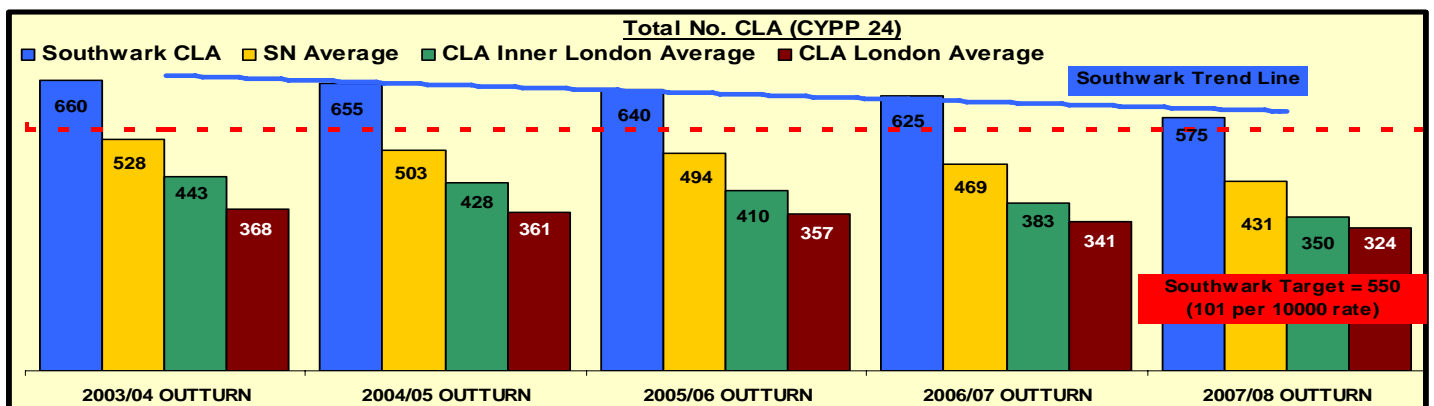


Fig 4: Comparing CLA with London Average (2007/08)

- % of CLA fostered by Relative or Friend (Indicator 16) – 2054SC

28. This Indicator dropped from 7.4% end 07/08 to 6.7% (38 living with relative or friend of the 568 CLA) in April 08 and has remained between 6.2% and 6.9% over the financial year; currently at 6.2% (34 living with relative or friend of the 552 CLA) ending Feb 09.

- **% CLA (aged 10 to 15) in foster placement (Indicator 17) – 2068SC**

29. Of the 224 of CLA aged 10 to 15, Southwark had 192 in foster placements or placed for adoption (85.7%) in 07/08. This remained about steady in 08/09 until Q2, where it dropped to 82.5%, but has currently risen to 86.6% (188 of 217 CLA) ending Feb 09. This is a lot better than its 07/08 SN performance of 83%.

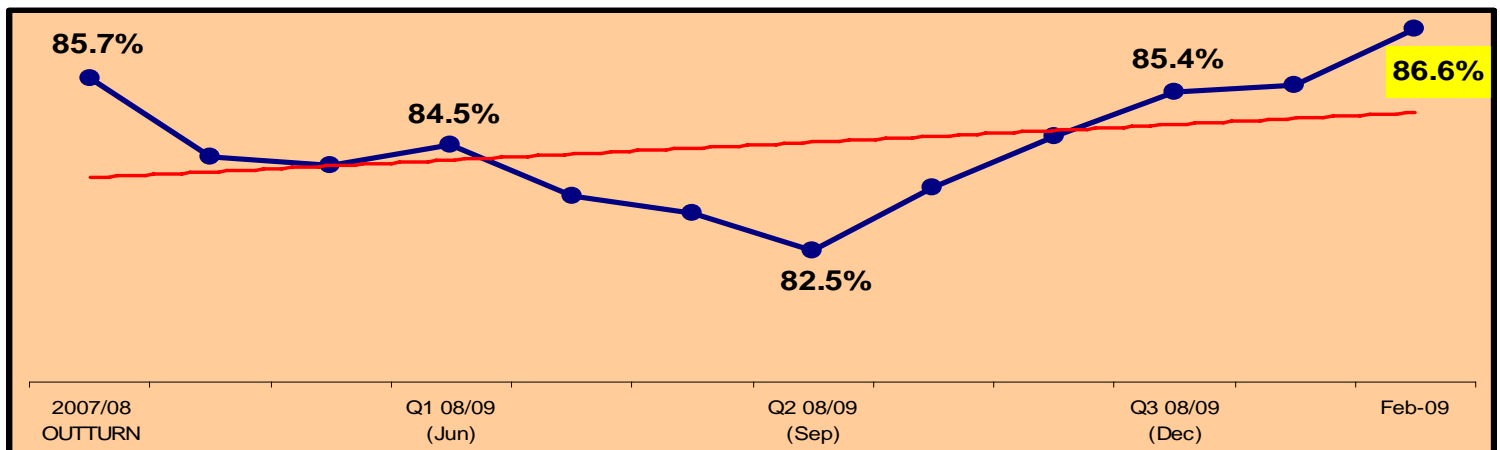
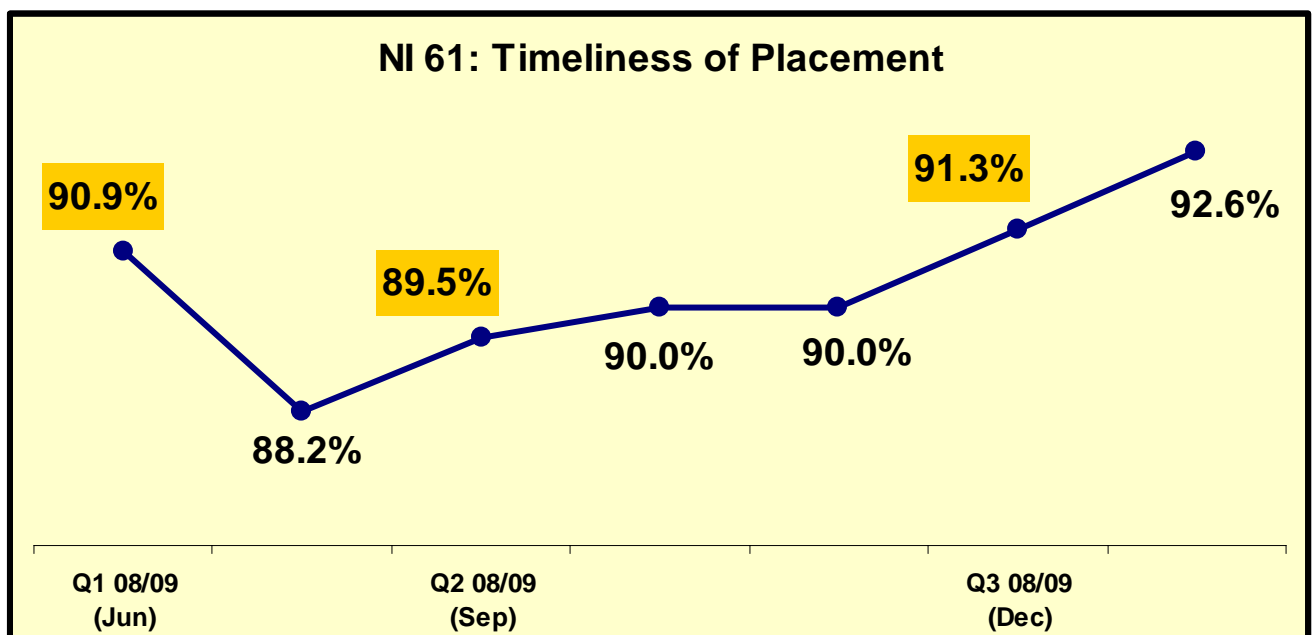


Fig 5:CLA (aged 10 to 15) in foster placement/placed for adoption

- **NI 61: Timeliness of Placement (Indicator 18)**

30. % of CLA adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision has shown steady improvement (Fig 6) since its drop in August 08 of 88.2% from 90.9% ending Q1, and is now currently at 92.6%.



Adoption

- **NI 62: No. of Moves (Indicator 39)**

31. The percentage of CLA with 3 or more placements has shown a steady increase (Fig 6) throughout the year and is currently at **12.1%** ending Feb 09; very marginally over the target of 12%.

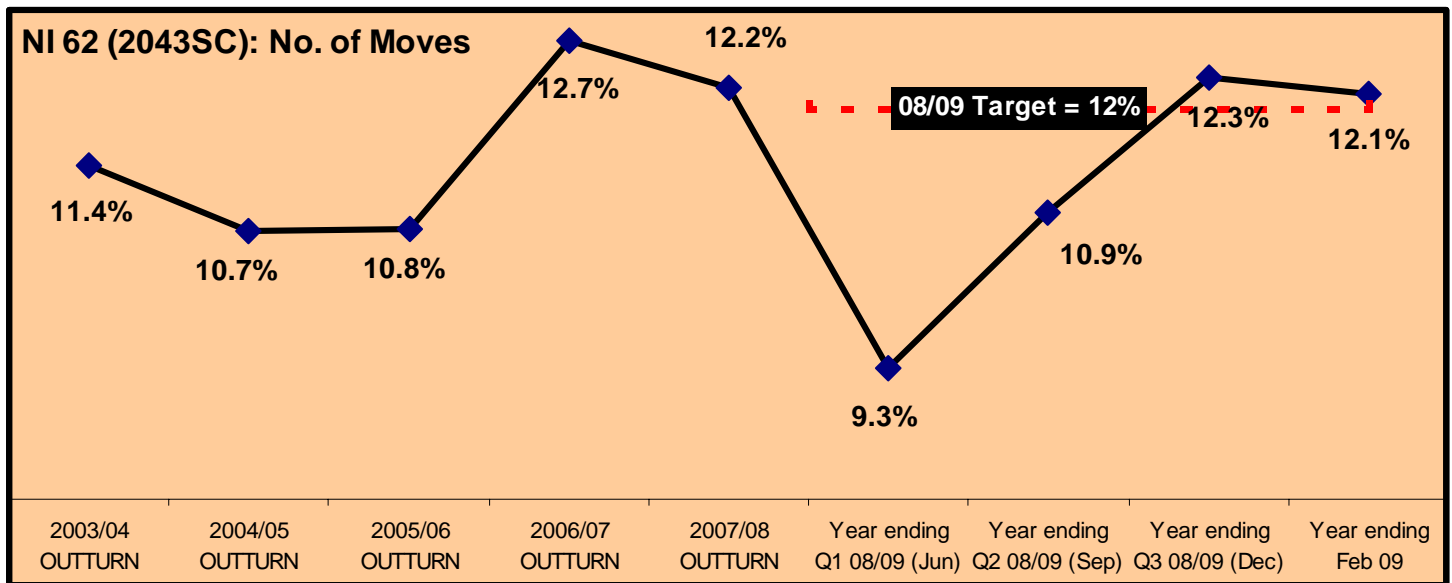


Fig 7: No. of moves

- **% of CLA adopted from Looked After Care – Indicator 41**

32. There was a total of 44 adoptions in the whole of 2007/08 (Indicator 39); a 10.1% rate of all CLA for more than one year, which was above the statistical neighbour average of 9.5%. This year has shown to be considerable improvement and we currently have 45 adoptions & SGO Year To Date (from April 08 to January 2009); a current rate of 8.1% of CLA adopted from Looked After Care. (Fig 8)

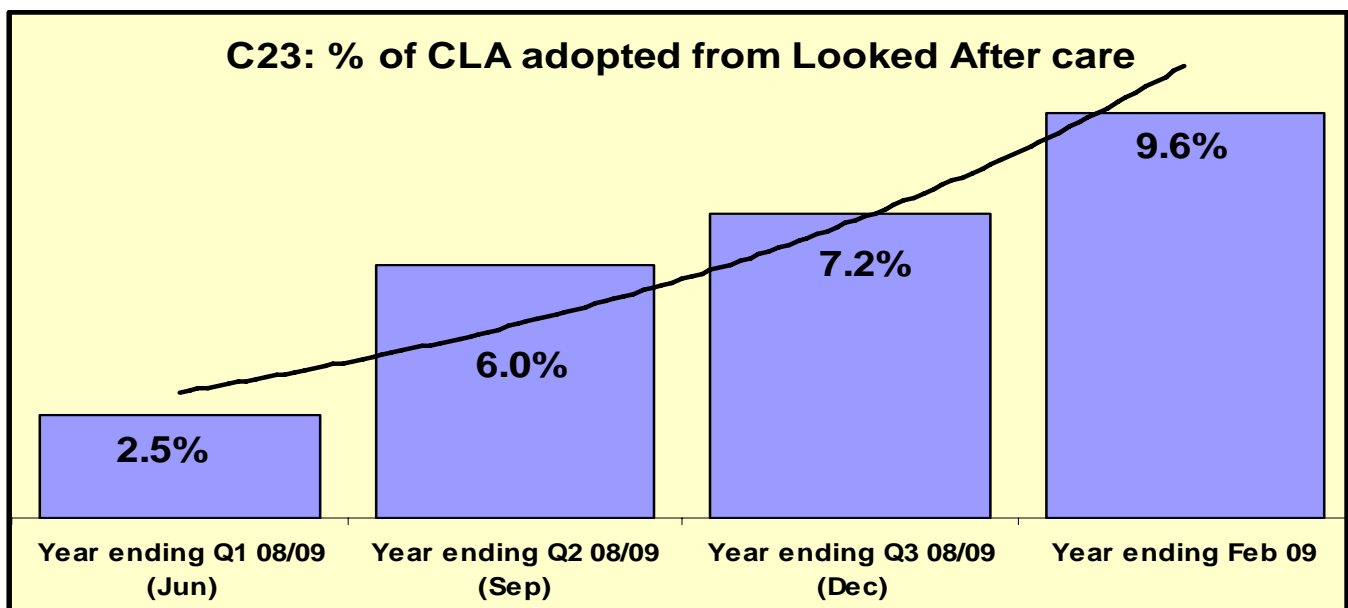


Fig 8: CLA Adopted from Looked After Care

CYPP Outcome 4: Making a Positive Contribution

Placement Choice

- **4016SC: CLA who communicated their views (Indicator 19):**

33. This indicator has been within the 08/09 Target of 94% throughout the financial year and above its 07/08 SN of 91%. It is currently 94.8% ending Feb 09

CYPP Outcome 5: Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Care Leavers

- **NI 147: Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation (Indicator 29)**

34. There has been an increase in the number of Care Leavers who reached their 19th birthday from April 09 to date (fig 10), however, although the number of in suitable accommodation has also increased, it does not correlate linearly with this increase (Fig. 9). Therefore the % of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation has worsened since November 2008 at 93.1% to 79.2% in January 2009 and is currently worse than its 07/08 SN of 91.1%

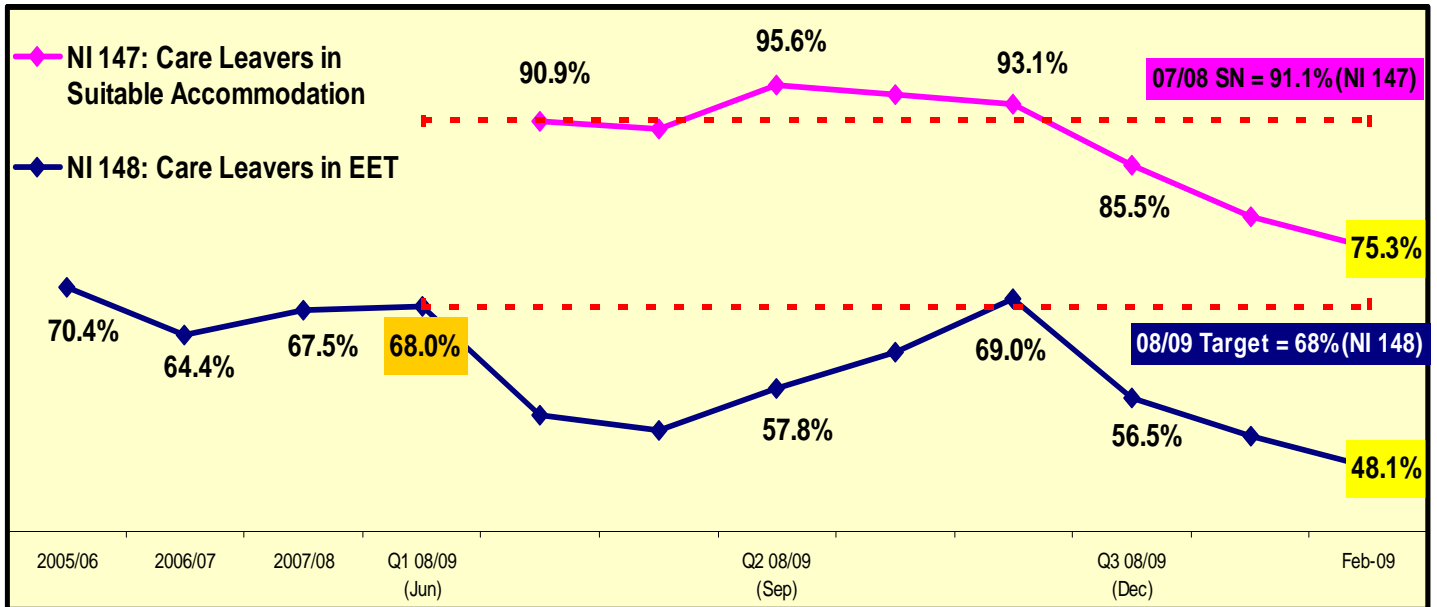


Fig 9: Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation & EET (%)

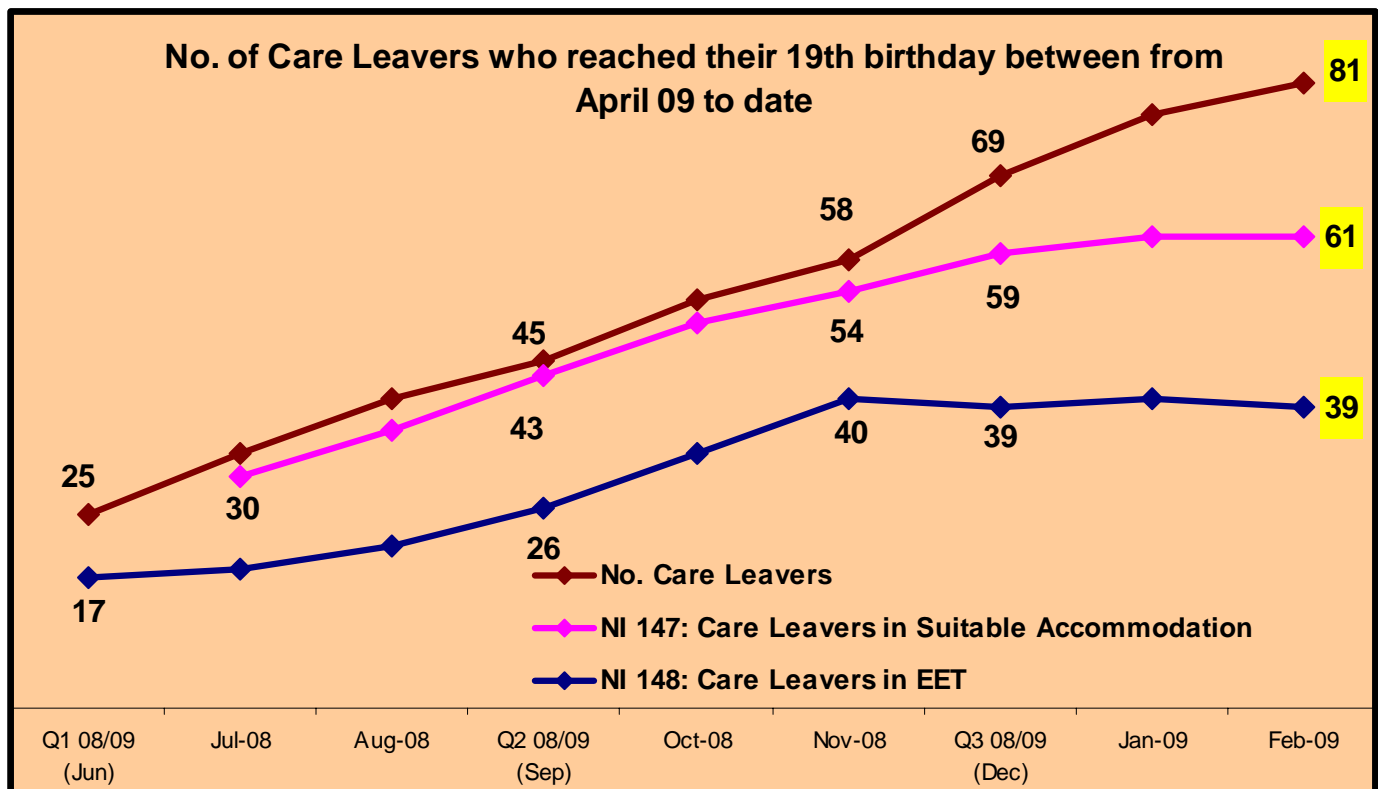


Figure 10: Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation & EET (Numbers)

- **NI 148: Care Leavers in EET (Indicator 28)**

35. Again, with the linear increase in the number of Care Leavers who reached their 19th birthday from April 09 to date, not matching that of the number in Education, Employment or Training

(EET), NI 148 has worsened since November 2008 at 69.0 to 51.9% in January 2009 and is currently worse than target of 68%. Fig 9

Other Placement Outcomes

- **Indicator 22: Placement within 7 mile Radius of Home**

36. The percentage of CLA placed within a 7 mile radius of their home address has been steady at 64% since November 2008, worse than its 2007/08 Target of 70%.

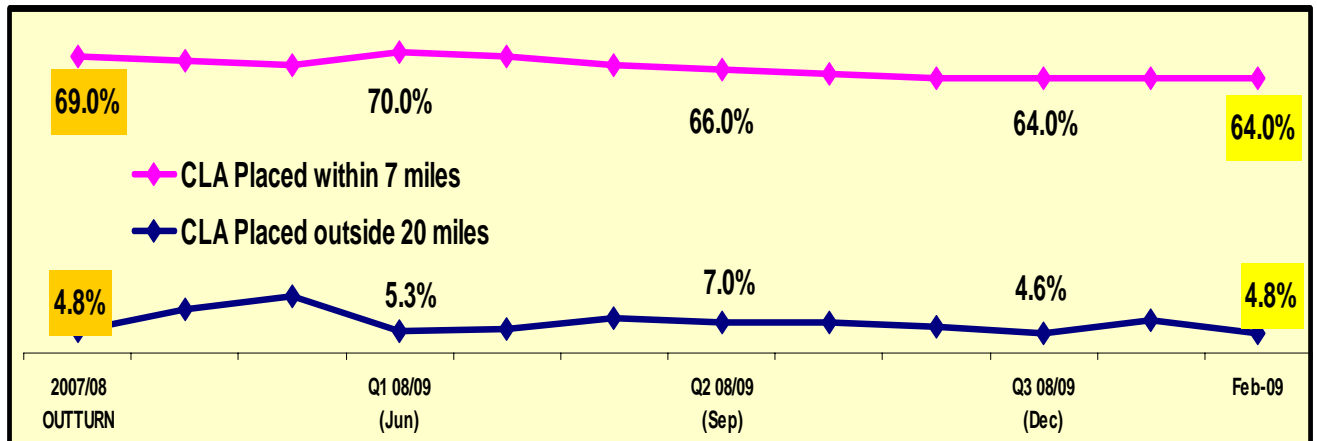


Figure 11: Placement within 7-mile and outside 20-mile radii

- **Indicator 21: Placement outside 20 mile Radius of Home**

37. There has been a great improvement from Quarter 2 of 7% to 4.8 ending February 2009 (Figure 11)

38. The percentage of CLA placed within a 7 mile radius of their home address has been steady at 64% since November 2008, worse than its 2007/08 Target of 70%.

- **Indicator 25: Percentage Plan for Permanency**

39. There are currently 83.8% (419 with completed plan and 81 CLA without a completed plan) CLA that had a plan for permanency as recorded on CareFirst; a drop from Q2 08/09 of 89.8%.

- **Indicator 57: % CLA missing 25+ days of School (APA 3074SC)**

40. There has been a great improvement from 2007/08 outturn of 14.5% to 7.9% in September (Source – OC2 Returns).

Policy Implications

41. This decision has been judged to have no policy implications.

Community Impact Statement

42. The decision to note this performance report has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities. Clearly the quality of these services has a big impact on children looked after from all communities. The ethnicity breakdown of the children looked after population is shown in appendix 1.

Resource Implications

43. This decision has no resource implications.

Consultation

44. The management team of Children's Safeguarding and Specialist Services have discussed the indicators set out in appendix 1.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Every Child Matters Performance Reports	Performance Team	Eko Gilbert 0207 525 5243

LIST OF APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Children Looked After Business Unit Report February 2009

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson	
Report Author	Eko Gilbert / Adrian Ward	
Version	Final	
Dated	March 24 2009	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBERS		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	<i>Comments included</i>
Director of Legal and Democratic Services	No	No
Director of Finance	No	No
List other officers here	No	No
Executive Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team	March 24 2009	